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Dr. Jane E. Henney, Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane, HF-1  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

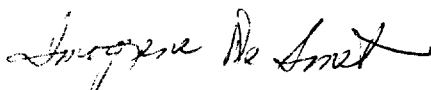
Like many Americans, I am concerned about the safety of the food I eat. I believe it is my right as a consumer to know whether the food I am eating has been genetically altered. Such foods pose unknown risks to the environment, to family farmers, and to my health, as well as to the health of any who partake of these foods. Mainly, these genetically altered foods have not had "long-run" usage for us to know what harm they hold for the soils growing them or for the people eating them. As I understand it, in some instances, poisons are introduced into these genetic seeds so as to kill off the insects that generally destroy the plants. If this is true, then what quantity of this poison residue enters the human body when humans in turn eat the plants? And in continuing to eat these genetically altered plants, what is the level of toleration for the human body before the poison begins to harm human tissues?

A lawsuit has been filed challenging the F.D.A.'s policy not to require labels on transgenic foods. I am writing to support the demands of this lawsuit for safety testing as well as for complete and prominent labels on such altered foods.

Further, please do not allow such research companies as Monsanto to use consumers as unknowing guinea pigs in the companies' experiments with potentially dangerous foods. When I was living in Wisconsin, I joined others in the state to fight against the bovine growth hormone because 1) such a chemical is not needed in the milk-producing industry, and 2) no long-range data is available to determine the lasting effects of the hormone, on either cows or on humans.

I am eager to hear that the F.D.A. is living up to its mandate to protect public health by providing consumers with the information we need to make healthful choices in the food that we eat.

Sincerely,

  
Imogene De Smet, Ph.D.

92N-0139

C5363

CROSS FILE SHEET

FILE NO: 92N-0139/C5363

SEE FILE NO: 98P-1194/C107

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